



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Redevelopment Agency

Community and Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 24, 2006

CONTACT: Eric Symons
619-533-5318
ESymons@sandiego.gov

Tim Graham
619-533-5130
TGraham@sandiego.gov

Senior Affordable Housing Development Breaks Ground in City Heights

Councilmember Atkins Attends City Heights Square Groundbreaking Event

SAN DIEGO – The renaissance of the City Heights community continued today with a groundbreaking ceremony for the senior housing complex, the first component in the **City Heights Square** mixed-use project. San Diego City Councilmember Toni Atkins, along with public, private and community representatives took part in the ceremony, officially marking the start of construction on the \$32 million development, which is scheduled to open in 2007 and provides critically needed affordable housing opportunities for low income seniors.

When completed, the project will provide 150 senior units on approximately .75 acres with a comprehensive support program for very low and extremely low income residents. It includes 71 studio apartments and 79 one-bedroom units for seniors ages 62 and older. One additional unit is for an on-site manager. A total of 79 parking spaces will also be provided for the building.

“With real estate at a premium in San Diego, finding affordable, high-quality housing for San Diego’s seniors on fixed incomes is becoming increasingly difficult,,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “This project is an excellent example of how redevelopment can be utilized to help bring public and private agencies together to benefit people in need. I look forward to seeing the completion of the entire City Heights Square project which will serve as another catalyst in the continued revitalization of this community and provide additional services for its residents.”

In addition to housing, the project is anticipated to provide much needed support services to residents including on-site clinical services, physical and mental health education and counseling, health monitoring, referrals to physicians, mental illness and substance abuse intervention and a congregate meal program. Additional support services will be provided by a full-time service coordinator, a part-time mental health worker and a part-time registered nurse located on-site. The project will be constructed by an affiliate of Chelsea Service Corporation and, upon completion, will be operated by Senior Community Centers of San Diego, which operates a low-income senior day center and supportive housing complex, Potiker Family Senior Residence, in downtown San Diego.

-more-

Redevelopment in City Heights Creates Senior Affordable Housing

February 24, 2006

Page 2

The City's Redevelopment Agency, through the Community and Economic Development Department, will commit more than \$9.1 million to the development. The project will also receive funding through \$18.4 million in tax credit equity as well as \$2.6 million in private debt.

The senior housing complex is one portion of the 2.8 acre City Heights Square mixed-use project. When completed the City Heights Square project will also provide a variety of amenities including office and retail space, a family clinic and a 5,348-square foot pocket park. Combined, the developments represent an investment of more than \$71 million to the City Heights community. Other partners in the project include San Diego Revitalization Corporation (the development arm of Price Charities) and La Maestra Family Clinics. The project is also a complementary phase to the award-winning City Heights Urban Village. The significant scale and active mixed uses of the project will further solidify the Urban Village area as the commercial and civic center in City Heights.

"I am filled with a great deal of pride when I reflect on all the positive changes that have been made to this neighborhood through redevelopment," said Councilmember Toni Atkins, whose Third District includes City Heights. "We are committed to providing high-quality market rate and affordable housing options, commercial opportunities and public improvements to this community, and will continue to support projects that will help revitalize one of San Diego's historic neighborhoods."

Seniors interested in obtaining more information on the Senior Housing Complex, please contact Mary Mazyck, Senior Community Centers Vice President of Programs at 619-235-6572 x317.

For more information about City Heights Square or and other redevelopment projects throughout the City, contact the City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency at (619) 533-4233 or visit the City's web site at www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency.

###

*The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency eliminates blight from designated areas, as well as achieves the goals of development, reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial, and retail districts. Redevelopment is one of the most effective ways to breathe new life into deteriorated areas plagued by social, physical, environmental or economic conditions that act as a barrier to new investment by private enterprise. **The City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency consists of three divisions:** the City Redevelopment Division (which provides overall agency management and is housed in the City of San Diego Community and Economic Development Department), the Centre City Development Corporation and the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation. Visit www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency or call (619) 533-4233.*